



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region



**Terry Tamminen**  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2>

**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SOLICITATION PERIOD AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

#### TRIENNIAL REVIEW

#### WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN

May 5, 2004

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) is initiating the triennial review process for the Water Quality Control Plan, San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region, including water quality standards.

The purpose of the triennial review is to examine and update the focus of Water Board planning efforts for the next three-year period, excluding TMDL developments underway. Federal law (Clean Water Act Section 303(c)(1)) requires that a state's water quality standards be reviewed every three years. The triennial review process will result in an amendment to the "Continuing Planning" section at the end of Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan, describing proposed allocation of available Basin planning staff resources for the next three years (i.e., workplan). The last update of the Basin planning workplan occurred in April 2001.

The public workshop on the Basin Plan Triennial Review will be held:

**DATE:** Tuesday June 8, 2004  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Elihu M. Harris State Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 15  
1515 Clay Street  
Oakland, California 94612

**STAFF CONTACT:** Steve Moore, Planning Section Leader  
1515 Clay Street, #1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 622-2439 (ph)  
(510) 622-2460 (fax)  
email: [smm@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:smm@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov)



This notice solicits public input for the preparation of the Water Board's triennial review workplan, with written comments due to the above address on **June 18, 2004**.

Based on previous stakeholder comments, coordination with the statewide Basin Plan roundtable, and a review of regulatory program needs, Water Board staff has identified three general topics for consideration in the upcoming triennial review. These are listed below, along with examples of specific issues that could be addressed within each topic area.

- Evaluate need for site-specific objectives for toxic pollutants
  - Cyanide (marine objective) and associated effluent limitation policy for shallow water dischargers
  - Copper (marine objective) north of Dumbarton Bridge
  - Nickel (marine objective) north of Dumbarton Bridge
- Stream Protection and Management
  - Incorporate explicit policy on stream protection into 401 water quality certification and Stormwater NPDES regulatory programs
  - Designation of Beneficial Uses related to physical stream and wetland functions that improve water quality
  - Associated update of significant Water Bodies and associated Beneficial Uses (the list has not been updated since 1975) with readily available documentation
    - Address municipal water supply designations per May 2000 letter from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
- Updates of Regulatory Programs
  - Establishing Fecal Coliform Effluent Limitations in lieu of Total Coliform
  - Acute Toxicity methods
  - Chronic Toxicity methods
  - Add technology based limit for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)
  - Mixing zone policy for riverine and estuarine discharges, consistent with State Implementation Policy for Toxic Pollutants (SIP)
  - Compliance Determination with Continuously Monitored Parameters (e.g., chlorine residual and pH)
  - Policy on use of Hardness data to Calculate Freshwater Metals Objectives
  - Update pollution prevention language to include reference to SB 709
  - If U.S. EPA removes "footnote b" of the California Toxics Rule (CTR), amend Tables 3-3 and 3-4 to recognize the CTR as the basis of water quality objectives so that future CTR updates do not require a subsequent Basin planning process
  - Editorial revisions and minor clarifications or corrections to text and reference to new laws, plans and regulations

The above list of potential workplan elements for Basin planning staff far exceeds available staff resources, currently funded by the state's General Fund at less than two person-years. The list of potential issues is not limited to the examples noted above. The above topics are listed to encourage input from interested parties to assist planning staff in prioritizing Basin Plan amendment projects that will best address water quality planning needs of our region.

We encourage interested parties to obtain relevant project documents at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/basinplan.htm](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/basinplan.htm) under “Triennial Review.”

After we have received public comments, staff will prepare a final workplan and Basin Plan amendment and send out a notice announcing a formal 45-day public comment period. Staff will then bring a proposed amendment to the Board for consideration and adoption in the fall of 2004.

**Triennial Review Solicitation Period:**

<b>Solicitation Period Opens</b>	<b>Wednesday May 5, 2004</b>
<b>Public Workshop</b>	<b>Tuesday June 8, 2004</b>
<b>Solicitation Period Closes</b>	<b>Friday June 18, 2004</b>
<b>Final date for</b>	
<b>Submitting comments</b>	<b>Friday June 18, 2004</b>
<b>Board Hearing</b>	<b>Fall 2004</b>